

A family explores The Frozen Kingdom exhibit.

* The Rhumb Line

Winter/Spring 2020 Number 92

Keepers for a Purpose



by Christopher Timm, Chief Curator

In our *Into the Lantern* exhibit there is a prime example of the intersection between maritime life and the written word—a lighthouse library. Lighthouse libraries were self-contained, portable libraries that provided lightkeepers with a welcome diversion during the quieter hours of the job. Rotated among stations by the Lighthouse Board Inspector, they were housed in rugged cases that allowed safe loading and unloading from a tender. Over 380 of these traveling libraries moved up and down America's waterways by the end of the 19th century. Our replica evokes this lesser known example of maritime bibliophilia.

These niche libraries attracted the attention of trade publications, such as the Library Journal, which in 1885 wrote about their evolution. Initially these libraries were stocked exclusively with donated books, and thus contained a mishmash of "theology, science, mathematics, novels, and odd magazines." Once demand was proven, however, Congress appropriated \$1,000 per year (roughly \$30,000 today) for the strategic acquisition of books—over 19,000 volumes by 1885. This generosity required a careful reexamination of existing holdings, and the Library Journal notes that "earlier filled cases, which contained a mixture of matter, much of which was naturally unattractive to the average light-keeper" were "somewhat winnowed." There was also a consideration of what exactly a lightkeeper wanted to read. The Lighthouse Board kept an inventory of each



The lighthouse library included in Into the Lantern.

library and recorded how many times each book was taken out—where, when, and by whom. The *Library Journal* concluded—with a somewhat condescending tone—that "the average light-keeper is on a plane, as to taste, education, and culture, with the average mechanic." It is unknown what both lightkeeper and mechanic thought of this comparison.

Maine Maritime Museum's Nathan R. Lipfert Research Library is no stranger to such self-reflective examinations of collections, access, and audience. The curatorial department has identified a number of initiatives geared at empowering research and improving accessibility.

Continued on page 4

Current Exhibits

The Frozen Kingdom: Commerce & Pleasure in the Maine Winter
On view through April 26, 2020

Sponsored by:





The Greatest Generation's Greatest Shipbuilders, 1927-1967
On view through March 29, 2020

Upcoming Exhibits

Interwoven: Threads of Power in the Domestic Sphere

On view April 4 - October 4, 2020

Sponsored by:



We Lead: Maritime Pioneers Past and Present
On view May 9 – November 1, 2020



Maine Maritime Museum celebrates Maine's vibrant maritime culture.

Rhumb Line

A line on the earth's surface which intersects all meridians and parallels of latitude at the same angle. A line of constant course is a rhumb line.

Yes! You Can Get Here from There!

After nearly a decade of big, transformational projects – from the construction of the *Wyoming* masts, to the acquisition of the historic schooner *Mary E*, and the complete redevelopment of the waterfront and arrival experience – the museum is now focusing on a different kind of transformation. We're very proud of all that's been accomplished to make the museum more relevant and vibrant and now we want to share that with as many people as possible.

We are making it easier to get here... from anywhere and for everyone.

The stairs to the front door are gone and more accessible parking means there are fewer physical barriers. Improvements to physical accessibility are also being made throughout the campus with new ramps, handrails, and better signage.

The Nathan R. Lipfert Research Library has been reorganized for physical access, and many of our collection resources have been made accessible online. The entire collections database is online, 170+ of our best paintings are online on Google Arts & Culture (see page 4), many of our ships plans are available online for viewing and downloading, and many of our library materials and archive finding aids are also available on Internet Archive, another online resource. People from around the world can now

access museum collections as never before.

Another barrier for some who would like to visit the museum is the expense of admission. Admission revenue is a necessity to maintain such a large campus with so much infrastructure; so we've always offered free admission throughout the year for special events like Community Day, and Screen-Free Week for local schools. We partner with libraries throughout the region to provide a membership card that can be borrowed by library patrons. But this year, thanks to two generous grants from The Davenport Trust Fund and the Leonard C. and Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation, we were able to offer free admission for everyone during the months of January and February. Thousands of visitors took advantage of this opportunity and we got so much great feedback that will work to find ways to continue making it possible for everyone to get here - from anywhere - again next year.

I hope you'll find time to get here! We're right off Route 1, about a mile south on Washington Street.

Amy Lent

Johnson Named Finance Director

Congratulations to Ashley Bjornson, the museum's former Director of Finance on her recent marriage to Eric Hussey. After moving to Elliot, Maine, the commute to Bath was too far and we were sad to see her leave, but happy for her new life and we wish them all the best.

We're delighted to welcome Dominic Johnson as the museum's new Director of Finance. He relocated to Maine



after spending the last 12 years in Philadelphia working at the Wharton School and University of Pennsylvania in various finance and accounting functions. A California native and University of California Santa Barbara graduate, Dominic grew up exploring the Sierra Nevada mountains and Pacific coastline. Dominic and his wife spent their



first anniversary camping in Acadia National Park and are thrilled to return to Maine and share the state's natural beauty with their two young sons, Luke and Theo.







Around the Museum

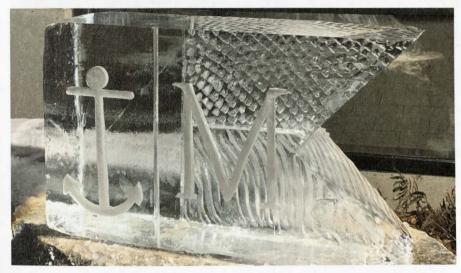




Guests sampled specialty cocktails from Maine spirit-makers at the fourth annual Mixers & Merriment event in December. Hardshore Distilling took home the coveted People's Choice trophy.



Young museum-goers enjoy Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers performance of *The Grinch* in December.



An ice sculptor carved the MMM burgee during the members opening reception for *The Frozen Kingdom*.

Museum Offers Free Admission in January and February

Thanks to generous grants from the Davenport Trust Fund and the Leonard C. and Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation, the museum waived admission fees during January and February 2020. Over 6,000 visitors had the opportunity to visit the museum at no cost.





The museum offered a different educational program every day of school vacation week covering topics from underwater robotics to the ice trade.

Maine Maritime Museum's Wish List

The museum is currently looking for a couple vehicles to help us maintain our waterfront and transport guests around our 20-acre campus. See below for details. If you have something that fits the bill and would like to learn more about making a tax-deductible donation, please contact the museum's Director of Programs and Operations Jason Morin at *morin@maritimeme.org*.

Work Boat

We are searching for a replacement for the museum's work boat, which our facilities staff uses to check moorings, install floats, remove the occasional log from under our pier, and other on-the-water activities. Ideally the vessel would be 16 to 18 feet in length, stable, in reasonably good condition, and center console. A vessel similar in style to a Boston Whaler Montauk, Maritime Skiff, or Carolina Skiff would be ideal.

Six-Passenger Golf Cart

Our fleet of golf carts is aging and can only accommodate three passengers at a time. With the increase in cruise ship visits, bus tours, and new layout of our campus, a six-passenger cart would improve our ability to transport guests.

Find Us on Google Arts & Culture



This winter MMM became the first museum in Maine to partner with Google Arts and Culture. This new platform allows us to upload extremely high-quality images of our two-dimensional artifacts — paintings, drawings, signs, and more. Anyone anywhere in the world can now access those images and view pieces from our collection!

The online exhibit, Maine and the Sea: 50 Years of Collecting at

Maine Maritime Museum, highlights items from the museum's first 50 years of collecting. The platform will be continually updated, so check back periodically to explore some of the museum's artifacts online. Check out our page here: artsandculture.google.com/partner/mainemaritimemuseum

Charles E. Burden Collections Stewardship Fund



A founding member of Maine Maritime Museum, Dr. Charles E. Burden has discovered and contributed to the museum more artifacts, documents, and photographs than anyone else. His unequaled dedication to and passion for the museum and maritime history merit our enduring recognition. To provide exceptional long-term care for the world-class collection that Charlie has done so much to develop, Maine Maritime Museum has established the Charles E. Burden Collections Stewardship Fund. This will ensure that important

artifacts continue to be thoughtfully acquired, properly preserved, and widely shared through exhibits, research, publications, and digital resources. To learn more or to make a gift, contact Director of Development Rebecca Roche at roche@maritimeme.org or 207-443-1316 x327.

Keepers for a Purpose

Continued from page 1



A page from a richly illustrated navigation book in the museum's archives.

Updating our book holdings is an important step to support the research of staff and visiting academics, which increasingly relies on newer methodologies and approaches. In 2019 we undertook a complete reassessment of our reference books, removing duplicate copies of the same volume (sometimes totaling as many as 10 copies for a single book) in order to add over 1,500 unique volumes that were previously uncatalogued due to space constraints.

The museum raises the prominence and accessibility of our archival collection through exhibits and publications. This year, the addition of the Lincoln P. Paine Maritime Research Grant will provide financial support for emerging scholars to use our collections in order to complete work on research projects, complete

dissertations, or prepare work for publication. A newer frontier for us is digital access, which is critical to providing open and equitable access to those who cannot travel or visit during the work week. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we now have the systems and technology to share some of our library's highlights—such as a richly illustrated navigation book of Francis Rittal—with a national and global audience. Digital access allows more eyes and fewer hands to interact with such fragile gems, preserving them for future generations.

At the 1979 annual meeting of the Society for American Archivists, president Maynard Brichford implored members to remember that "we are keepers for a purpose and that purpose is not 'keeping' but using." Thank you to the trustees, donors, members, volunteers, and staff who support this undertaking. We owe our collections to be used, not only by those who can drop by, but also by those who through geography, health, or economics are out on a metaphorical Matinicus Rock, and sometimes need the books brought to them.

A World-Class Resource



by Elisabeth Meier, Project Archivist

An entry pass to the Belgian Royal Zoological Gardens from 1853, made out to Josiah Wotton of Friendship, Maine. Letters from Lamoine fish merchant Francis L. Hodgkins, searching for a market for pickled fish. Clearance papers for the schooner *Clara Norton*, of Blue Hill, for a visit to Baltimore during the Civil War.

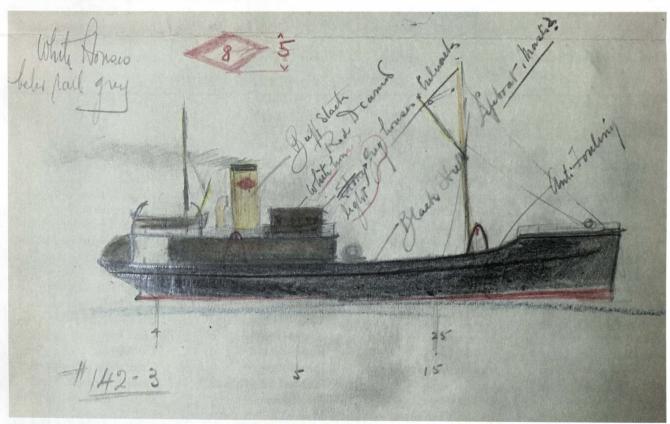
All of these are documents that happened to cross my desk in the last two weeks. As a project archivist at Maine Maritime Museum's Nathan R. Lipfert Research Library for the past two years, I have been examining, arranging, and describing the museum's manuscript collections so that anyone can discover documents like these. Every day, I'm reminded of the quality and depth of the resources here.

What makes for a good collection of manuscripts? Size certainly helps. At MMM, there are approximately 3.5 million pages of letters, diaries, log-books, ledgers, and other original documents from Maine's maritime past. There are a lot of interesting stories in those pages.

The scope of the collection is equally important. We have records dating from the 1750s to the 1990s, written by Mainers who rarely left home and by Mainers sailing to all corners of the globe. We have records of shipbuilding, shipwrecks, and everything between.



One of many unexpected treasures found in the museum's archives: Jessie, the ship's dog on the *John R. Kelley*, 1899. Drawn by Lydia Ford Keene. MS-679.



A unique find in the archives: Proposed color scheme for the fishing trawler Maine, built at Bath Iron Works, 1931. MS-33.

Perhaps most important is the depth of the collection. In other words, how many questions can be answered in the archives? Are there enough examples to find patterns in historical data, and to identify outliers? Here again, the answer is resoundingly positive. A single example shows what one person did. Since this library has collections from many different shipbuilders, captains, and maritime tradesmen, it is possible to piece together a comprehensive picture of the past.

Finally, library materials need to be accessible. My work, to organize and write descriptions of manuscript collections, was an important first step. Ongoing initiatives to make the collections available digitally will make that information more accessible still.

Maine Maritime Museum's collections are world-class. They are an amazing resource for understanding the maritime history of Maine and the world. They set this institution apart. And they are open for research. Browse our collections guides online, then come visit the library to see what you can find!

\$ 5



Honor/Memorial Gifts

9/26/2019 - 2/5/2020

In Honor of Charles E. Burden, M.D.

Elizabeth Beaudoin Dewolfe & Wood Raymond C. Egan Harold Fessenden and Georgina Walker Bernard and Elizabeth Fishman Stuart M. Frank Gloria E. Grav Lincoln and Allison Paine Ford and Karen Reiche Bill and Mary Earl Rogers William and Marilyn Wilkoff Ruth and Robert Zollinger

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In Memory of Thomas E. Wood Elise Von Koschembahr

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Thank You to Our New Annual Fund Donors 9/16/2019 - 2/5/2020

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Leslie Swan Photography Topside Inn

Victory Chimes

White Cedar Inn Bed and Breakfast Wilbur's of Maine Chocolate Confections

Woodex Bearing Company, Inc.

New Business Partners are listed in RED.

Featured Business Partner

Maine Street Design Company

Every home tells a story about the people who live there. Let us tell yours. Welcome to Maine Street Design Company—a Portland-based interior design firm and home decor shop—open for business at 160 Front Street in Bath, our second location.



Over the years we've developed a reputation for singular interior compositions that are functionally elegant and true reflections of the personalities of the people we design for.

The virtuosity of our work is grounded in a seamless integration of architecture, craftsmanship, textiles, art, and design. Each project is a study in scale and proportion, and articulates a well-defined balance, contextual appropriateness, and relaxed refinement.

We are excited to now be a part of the Bath community. Shop! on Front Street is our retail location where you can explore our showroom and curate the perfect space for you. And, talk to our enthusiastic team of designers who will help you create your vision. Our door is open and we are here to guide you and answer all design questions—thoughtfully and compassionately.

Shop! 160 Front Street, Bath (207) 541-9187 www.mainestreetdesign.com

We are also grateful for the support of our nonprofit partners. Visit MaineMaritimeMuseum.org for a full list of Business Partners.

47th Albert Reed & Thelma Walker Maritime Symposium

Saturday, April 4, 9 am-6 pm

Members \$40; nonmembers \$45; students \$15

For decades Maine Maritime Museum has been a venue for innovative scholarship on maritime topics. The tradition continues! In honor of the state's bicentennial, the theme of this year's symposium is Leadership: 200 Years of Maine Pioneers. Engaging conversations will unfold throughout the day and a lively reception will follow. Advance registration is required. Registration fees include continental breakfast and one drink ticket for the reception. Boxed lunches available for \$15, and must be purchased in advance.



Community Day Saturday, May 16, 11 am-2 pm FREE admission; \$10 cruises

Help us kick-off the summer season! We'll welcome our historic schooner Mary E home to the dock and raise the flags on Wyoming with a cannon salute at noon. We will also be celebrating the state's bicentennial with the opening of our summer exhibit We Lead: Maritime Pioneers, Past & Present. Enjoy a cruise aboard Merrymeeting, and check out Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary's life-size inflatable humpback whale, Salt. Plus, tours, crafts, and family fun.

Mary E's Birthday Gala Friday, July 10, 5 pm

Individual tickets \$150; table of eight \$1,000

Save the date for our annual gala celebrating the 1906 schooner Mary E! Held under a tent in the historic Percy & Small Shipyard on the Kennebec River, the evening features dinner, silent auction, games,



and a live auction, all topped off with music and dancing. The event raises money to support Mary E and the preservation of traditional maritime skills.

Summer Camp

Kennebec Explorers Day Camp

June 22-26; July 6-10; July 13-17; July 20-24; July 27-31; August 3-7; August 17-21 Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm

Members \$255; nonmembers \$265; early drop-off (8 am)/ late pick-up (5:30 pm) available for \$25

This summer Maine Maritime Museum will offer seven sessions of our five-day summer camp. Each session includes outdoor adventures, boat cruises, games, science experiments, crafts, beach trips and more! For students ages 6-12 years old. This



program is made possible thanks to support from the Merrymeeting Bay Trust.

Mariners Adventure Camp August 10-14, 9 am to 4:30 pm

SOLD OUT Members \$275; nonmembers \$325; late pick-up (5:30 pm) available for \$25

Give your child the experience of a lifetime aboard the schooner Mary E, learning the traditional skills that were required to build and sail this historic ship. Campers ages 11-14 will join the ship's crew in this five-day, immersive program. Campers will

explore and develop the skills of the shipwright on the grounds of the museum's historic Percy & Small Shipyard. Afternoons will be spent dockside and underway aboard Mary E, where campers will learn to handle dock lines, raise and trim sails, read charts and plot courses, tie essential knots, and take the wheel.

Lectures & Talks

Schooner Bowdoin: From Arctic Explorer to Maritime Teacher with Eric Jergensen

Thursday, April 9, 6-7 pm

Members \$7; nonmembers \$10

Eric Jergensen, Assistant Professor of Marine Transportation at Maine Maritime Academy, shares his knowledge of navigation on board the historic arctic schooner Bowdoin to a new generation of students.

Stories from the Sea: Fishing Communities Revealed with Natalie Springuel

Thursday, June 18, 6-7 pm Members \$7; nonmembers \$10

Scattered among Maine's coastal communities, in historical societies, museums, libraries, community radio stations and schools, the voices of Maine's fishing community members have been recorded for posterity. This talk will bring those stories to life.

Cultivating Leadership on Maine's Islands

Thursday, July 23, 6-7 pm

Members \$7; nonmembers \$10

Karen Burns, Chief Talent Officer at the Island Institute, will provide insight into Maine's island communities and the Island Fellows Program, which places recent college graduates into multi-year fellowships among Maine's island communities.

Navigation Classes

Suddenly in Command

Monday, April 27 & Wednesday, April 29, 6-8 pm Members \$44; nonmembers \$55

This is the ideal course for those who enjoy boating but are not often at the helm. Topics include preunderway planning, developing situational awareness, understanding how boats handle, VHF radio introduction, Coast Guard required safety equipment and regulations, and accident assessment and reporting. This course is taught by members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Navigating Midcoast Maine

Tuesdays & Thursdays, May 19-28, 6-8 pm or November 10-19, 6-8 pm

Members \$80; nonmembers \$100

This course is taught by members of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and serves as an introduction to navigation using The Three Rivers Chart (#13293), so you'll become familiar with the coastal waters of between Small Point and Pemaquid.

Cruise Season is Coming!

Since we know you look forward to cruising the Kennebec all winter long, here is a preliminary look at our 2020 cruise schedule. Board the cruise boat Merrymeeting for an up-close look at the Midcoast's iconic lighthouses, or sail aboard the schooner Mary E down the river where it was launched in 1906!



2020 Merrymeeting Cruises

Summer cruise season runs May 16 through October 4. All tickets includes two-day admission.

Shipyards & Lighthouses Cruise (1 hour)

Seven days a week, 12 pm and 2 pm

Members \$31; nonmembers \$38; 6-12 years \$21; under 6 \$6

Midcoast Lights and Rivers (3 hours)

Monday-Thursday, 3:30 pm

Members \$39; nonmembers \$48; 6-12 years \$30; under 6 \$6

Lighthouse Lovers Cruise (4 hours)

Saturday, 3:30 pm

Members \$43; nonmembers \$53; 6-12 years \$35; under 6 \$6

Six Rivers of Merrymeeting Bay Cruise (3 hours) Sunday, 3:30 pm

Members \$39; nonmembers \$48; 6-12 years \$30; under 6 \$6

2020 Mary E Kennebec River Sail

Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday at 4 pm June 6 through October 3

Members \$45; nonmembers \$56; 12 and under \$45

Donnell Family Forum



by Sarah Timm, Manager of Interpretation

The Donnell Family Forum is a new interdisciplinary program series inspired by the spirit and history of the Donnell family, shipyard owners whose restored Victorian home is now part of the museum. The Donnell family's success in the shipbuilding industry during the 19th century was the product of collaborative entrepreneurship, social dexterity, and community engagement from all members of the family, men and women. The history of shipyards and shipbuilders frame much of Maine's maritime history, but there was also a thriving social and political network that is often overlooked. Taking inspiration from the Donnell's dynamic history, the Donnell Family Forum will feature talks, workshops, and exhibits that encourage us to view maritime Maine through new lenses and to consider new individuals, skills, and stories that define - or redefine - Maine's past and present. The Donnell Family Forum is an opportunity to broaden our scope of topics and programming to engage new audiences interested in the cultural and social history of maritime Maine. The Donnell Family Forum will launch in April with a new exhibit, Interwoven: Threads of Power in the Domestic Sphere, and a series of talks and workshops that explore the importance of domestic skills and family reputation in Maine's shipbuilding communities.

Generously sponsored by:



Exhibit: Interwoven: Threads of Power in the Domestic Sphere

On view April 4 to October 4

This exhibit brings together fiber arts from the 19th century and today to trace the threads of power and change in gender roles and social norms in the domestic spaces of maritime Maine.

Shibori & Indigo Dyeing, Talk and Demonstration

June 4, 6 pm

Members \$7; nonmembers \$10

Kathleen Goddu, a featured artist in the Interwoven exhibit, will host a lecture and demonstration of traditional Japanese Shibori (indigo-dyed fabric) techniques and the indigo dyeing process.

Folk Art Rug Hooking Workshop

July 18, 12:30-4:30 pm Members \$25; nonmembers \$30 (Additional materials fee) Like all old-fashioned crafts,

rug hooking is low-tech, simple and lots of fun. Students will choose from a variety of rug hooking kits, which include everything



needed. There is an additional materials fee ranging from \$41-\$60, depending on the kit chosen.

Tapestry Weaving Demonstration

July 20, 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Free with admission

Barbara Burns, a featured artist in the Interwoven exhibit, will be demonstrating tapestry weaving in the Kramer Gallery. Visitors are invited to drop-in and watch her work, ask questions, and strike up a conversation with one of Maine's talented textile artists.

Making Your Mark: Embroidered

Monograms Workshop August 8, 12:30 to 4:30 pm Members \$60; nonmembers \$75

Artist Jill Snyder-Wallace will introduce a brief history of how Victorian women's identities were expressed using needlepoint and provide hands-on instruction to guide the creation of your own embroidered mono-



gram. Participants can choose from three designs, and a range of fabrics and threads that will be introduced in the class.

Put on Your Thinking Cap: Artist Talk

August 20, 6 pm

Members \$7; nonmembers \$10

Crystal Cawley, featured artist in the Interwoven exhibit, will discuss the inspiration and history behind her Thinking Caps, a series of paper headpieces started in 2012. Cawley will introduce how her work speaks to the challenges of women who broke social conventions and introduce the origin of the phrase "put on your thinking cap."

Winter/Spring 2020 The Rhumb Line & 9



Boatshop Update



by Kurt Spiridakis,Director of Watercraft and Traditional Skills

Lumber Shed

In December we wrapped up construction of our lumber drying and storage shed, located on the west wall of the museum's boat barn. This 16' x 60' shed roof structure allows the Boatshop to safely dry and store boatbuilding lumber milled from our sawmill. Many volunteers worked long hours mixing cement, raising beams, and fastening rafters to complete the structure. Special thanks



to Education & Volunteer Coordinator Luke Milardo for his help with the roof and last-minute fastenings. Acquisition of the sawmill and construction of the shed provides the infrastructure for continuous access to low-cost, high-quality boatbuilding materials.

Toboggan Class

The first ever (or at least in the last 15 years) museum toboggan-building class happened in January and was, by all accounts, a wild success! While not needing to float, toboggans do necessitate similar construction techniques as boats with steambending, straightgrained lumber, and



non-ferrous fasteners. Three toboggans came out of the two-night class, complete with rope handles and racing stripes. The first nights' activities were filmed by WCSH Channel 6, who were doing a story on the national toboggan championships in Camden. One toboggan was built by a family spanning three generations, including a museum volunteer and a Discovery Boatbuilding alum. Boatshop volunteers spent significant time building and testing the bending forms and construction techniques, and the shop now has the capacity to build five toboggans simultaneously. This is sure to become an annual wintertime workshop!

Current Projects

Winter and spring projects include the construction of seven Yankee Tender skiffs, a Washington County peapod, and a Five Islands skiff; the completion and installation of timber benches and picnic benches; a structure to cover the sawmill; rebuilding the sawmill engine; a new main boom, mast hoops, and bunk cushions for the *Mary E*; and restoration of the 2020 raffle boat, a 1969 Beetlecat sailboat.



Shop Update

The 2020 museum capital budget allowed for insulation of the Boatshop's milling room with high-efficiency spray foam. This space is used extensively by staff and volunteers to mill and process lumber for boats and other projects. Previously, there was zero insulation in the room, and the seams in the siding were so large and numerous that the cold air would flood the space daily, making working with metal tools downright unbearable. Thanks to this project, we now have a clean, safe, and comfortable area to better support all of our projects and programming. Thanks Buildings and Grounds Committee!

Boatshop Workshops

Building an Adirondack Chair

August 8, 10 am-3:30 pm

Members \$130; nonmembers \$163

Join us in the historic Percy & Small Shipyard at the museum for our first-ever outdoor Adirondack chair class! Learn to build your own Adirondack chair using durable cedar. Bring a lunch and spend the day building, then end the day enjoying

the breeze off the Kennebec while you kick back in your new chair. No woodworking experience is necessary, just a willingness to work hard and a love of comfortable chairs.

Shaker Box Making

August 12 & 13, 1-4 pm; December 9 & 10, 5-8 pm

Members \$75; nonmembers \$94

The Shakers are famous for their simple and elegant designs, and the Shaker oval box is no exception. Over two evenings in the Boatshop, you'll build a set of three nesting oval boxes using boatbuilding techniques such as clinch nailing and steam bending. No experience is required; this class is a fantastic introduction to woodworking. Boxes are made from cherry and cedar, and all materials are provided.

Glued Lapstrake Kayak Building

August 24-29, 8 am-4 pm

Members \$550; nonmembers \$650, plus the cost of the Chesapeake Light Craft kit (prices range from \$700-\$1,500 per kit, depending on the model)

Work for one week in the Boatshop to build your very own kayak. This class uses commercially made stitch and glue kits by Chesapeake Light Craft; several styles are available. The workshop will be taught by kayak designer Eric Schade, who designs boats for Chesapeake Lightcraft and has taught boatbuilding classes throughout the country.

Building a Fireside Stool

October 14 & 15, 5-8 pm

Members \$70; nonmembers \$88

This solid three-legged pine stool has no fasteners and is held together only with tight joinery. It is perfect for sitting by the fire, working in the home shop, or as a perch for your cat. No woodworking experience is necessary to build this beautiful and functional work of art – over 200 have been built by our 5th to 8th-grade boatbuilding students.

‡ 10 The Rhumb Line

Meet Luke!



In November 2019 the museum welcomed a new Education & Volunteer Coordinator, Luke Milardo. Luke brings a wealth of experience working with local youth and nonprofits through his previous work at Seeds of Independence,

Vinalhaven Land Trust, and the Island Institute. Luke assists in teaching and

developing MMM's education and public programs and oversees the museum's volunteer corps. With Luke's addition, MMM now has two fulltime educators on staff, providing the opportunity to expand our school and public programs. Welcome aboard, Luke!

Kicking Off the 2020 Season

by Luke Milardo, **Education & Volunteer Coordinator**

The gears are in motion preparing for another busy season! I'm excited to attend trainings and learn the swing of things in the summer months, and I'm looking forward to working with everyone I've been emailing since November.

Upcoming Volunteer Events

March 9, 8:30-10 am Volunteer Breakfast

April 1, 4-6 pm Volunteer Recruitment Party

May 6 & 14, 8:30 am-12 pm All-Volunteer Trainings (choose one)

We are always looking for more recruits, so don't forget to spread the word to friends and neighbors about the great community and opportunities here at MMM. And mark your calendars: All-Volunteer Training will be held on May 6 and 14, 8:30 am-12 pm.

Volunteer Spotlight



Russ Pierson **Education Volunteer**

Russ Pierson taught 4th through 12th grade students in Brunswick for 38 years, 20 of which he was Social Studies Department Head at Brunswick Junior High. He considers

himself lucky to have had a career that combined his interest in history with his passion for working with kids, and we consider ourselves lucky to have him as a volunteer for our RSU1 Sense of Place programs. Russ's expertise in both teaching and history make him a valuable resource for our educational programming.

What's your favorite thing about volunteering? After two years away from the classroom, I really enjoyed helping local 7th grade students learn about the history of fishing in the region. But teachers are learners, too. My desire to keep learning didn't retire at the end of my professional career. So last season, I started volunteering in two areas I knew little about beforehand. I enjoyed my weekly shifts as a docent on the Mary E, as well as qualifying as a Percy and Small Shipyard tour guide. It was a steep learning curve—and just the challenge I was looking for. Then there's the social aspect. It's been great making friends with fellow volunteers who come from a variety of life experiences. It's also a blast interacting with lots of visitors from near and far.

Why is youth programming, specifically at MMM, important to you?

I strongly believe in authentic, hands-on learning opportunities that help kids make connections between the classroom and the real world. MMM's youth programs represent the kind of school-community partnership that takes learning beyond the classroom walls. The Museum's programs are meaningful, interactive, and tailored to the local curriculum - with students as the ultimate beneficiaries. It's gratifying to be part of this worthy effort!

What's your favorite exhibit/artifact/program at MMM? It's so hard to choose just one! The Percy & Small Shipyard's original buildings and machinery are unique and make history come alive. The Wyoming evocation conveys the massive scale of the largest wooden vessel built in North America. But my sentimental favorite is the fully restored 114-year-old schooner, Mary E. She's a beauty!

What do you like to do when you're not at the museum? I enjoy reading, music, nature, and travel. I'm often planning my next trip to some interesting part of the world with the love of my life, Brenda!

Volunteers at Work



Martha Reifschneider undergoing the mammoth task of reviewing vessel photographs for digitization.



At the Jolly Family Jamboree, we were astonished by how closely Richard Rotnem resembles St. Nick.



Dave Marcello teaches museum quests to design, build, and test underwater ROVs.

Undercurrents



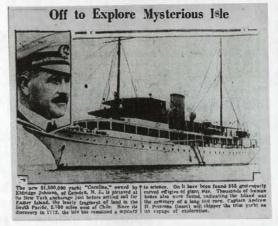
by Christopher Timm, Chief Curator

In 1931, a Bath-built vessel prepared to explore a "land of submerged cities" and solve "the riddle of mankind's origin."

The yacht *Caroline II*, launched by Bath Iron Works in 1931, was built at the direction of Eldridge R. Johnson, founder of the Victor record company and trustee of the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Johnson was an avid amateur archaeologist and the *Caroline* was to be the ultimate "archaeological-expedition yacht," outfitted with equipment that would make Indiana Jones envious. A gyroscopic-stabilizer, able to counteract roll of up to 5.7 degrees, would provide smooth voyages to distant lands—the Syracuse Herald claimed it would "speed through mountainous waves without even spilling tea." An extensive laboratory on the upper deck was connected by an elevator to the vessel's hold, allowing the easy storage of archaeological finds. And the spacious boat deck was intended for the stowage of two seaplanes, which would enable quick resupply in exotic corners of the globe.

Caroline's destination? Easter Island in the Pacific, hailed as the "most isolated inhabited spot on earth." With a dash of pseudoscience and a heavy sprinkle of colonialism, newspapers speculated that the island's iconic statues—at the time rudely described as "grotesque" and "solemn-visaged"—were remnants of a lost, ancestral civilization. And like a late-night special on the History Channel, even more outlandish speculation soon followed; Easter Island was perhaps the lost continent of Atlantis (albeit in the Pacific...). More scientific study has since identified the Moai statues as having been erected by the Rapa Nui people, the indigenous Polynesian inhabitants of Easter Island, between 1250 and 1500.

Johnson was captivated by this "mysterious isle" with its reputed "carved effigies" and "thousands of human bones" (note King Kong and its Skull Island would begin production later that year) and intended to unlock its secrets. His lack of



experience would be remedied through enthusiasm. "He has never before been to Easter Island," wrote the *Hamilton Daily News*, but "he has read everything written about it." He would recruit 20 scientists, personally lead the expedition to Easter Island, unravel its mysteries, and then return with a statue for the University of Pennsylvania's museum. In short, *Caroline* was meant to

achieve an archaeological and anthropological breakthrough.

Sweet Caroline, good times never seemed so good. But the cracks were starting to show when, at the end of 1931, the *Cumberland Evening Times* reported that Johnson still "has not yet made public the names of the scientists who will make the expedition." In the end, Johnson's if-you-build-it-the-scientists-will-come strategy failed. The *Caroline* never found its team and it never made it to Easter Island.

Undaunted, Johnson next partnered with the Smithsonian Institute to launch what would become known as the Johnson-Smithsonian Deep Sea Expedition. From late January until early March, 1933, the Caroline would ply the closer waters of the Caribbean. It did not solve the mysteries of Atlantis, but instead mapped the depths of the Puerto Rico Trench and identified hundreds of new marine species. Instead of a lost continent, it had found a hidden world.

Want to read more about the *Caroline?* Visit the Nathan R. Lipfert Research Library on Internet Archive to read its copy of the book "Motor Yacht *Caroline*" by Johnson and Arnold Newell.

Get Your 2020 Boat Raffle Tickets



Tickets for our 2020 raffle boat are now available! Built in 1969 and recently restored by the Maine Maritime Museum Boatshop, this beautiful Beetle Cat is made of cedar on oak with bronze fasteners. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20, and proceeds

support the Discovery Boatbuilding Program. The winner will be drawn October 13, 2020. Tickets are available at the museum or at www.MaineMaritimeMuseum.org/shop.

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I have also enclosed \$______ as a contribution to help support the museum

Please make check payable to Maine Maritime Museum and return to: 243 Washington Street, Bath, ME 04530 Dues and other contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.